



Digital Scriptorium

[DS Home](#) | [About DS](#) | [Using The Images](#) | [Basic Search](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Help](#)

[Comment on this Record](#)

San Marino, Huntington Library, HM 00001

Description: ff. 132 - Bound, ca. 1815, by Charles Lewis according to the 27 June 1883 Sotheby catalogue entry, but without binder's ticket or signature, in dark olive straight grain morocco, gold tooled, with the arms of Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid (1778-1859) on both covers; the arms later covered by leather patches, partially removed ca. 1928; gilt edges. Evidence suggests at least 2 previous bindings: one, s. XVI?, which had a center clasp on the front cover that left a rust stain and hole on the present ff. 1 and 2, showing that the presumed first quire had already been lost, but that the 4 leaves now missing after f. 2 were still in place, since there is virtually no rust mark on the present f. 3. A second binding, s. XVII?, may have been done for Christopher Towneley, since his pressmark appears twice on f. 1, as if the book had been returned to him from the binder with his first mark partially trimmed away, and he had thus been obliged to inscribe it a second time farther from the edge. Narrow stain along the fore edge on f. 1 also due to a previous binding. - Among the pentrials: s. XVI: f. 13, "Iohn"; f. 73, "Spigart [?]; f. 90, "James blake bowrn by"; ff. 101, 107v, "Iohn"; s. XVII: f. 35v, "Samuel" and "S. humer ___?___"; f. 73v, "Thomas Hargraues"; f. 90, "Thomas Hargraues of Burnleye"; f. 97v, "William ___?___"; f. 121v, "P. Haw [?]." Belonged to Christopher Towneley (1604-74) whose pressmark occurs twice on f. 1, "13½:35" above "F:35." In the sale of John Towneley (1731-1813) of Towneley Hall, Lancashire, by Evans, pt. I, 8 June 1814, lot 894 to John Louis Goldsmid (second cousin to Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid); his sale, Evans, 11 December 1815, lot 287 to John North; his sale, Evans, pt. III, 25 May 1819, lot 457 to Peregrine Edward Towneley (son of the aforementioned John Towneley; d. 1846), whose name appears in pencil on f. ii verso. Sale of Col. John Towneley (nephew of Peregrine Edward Towneley; d. 1878), Sotheby's, 27 June 1883, lot 202 to Quaritch. Quaritch Cat. 355 (1884) n. 21885; Cat. 369 (1886) n. 35673; Cat. 124 (1892) n. 343; Cat. 138 (1893) n. 77; Cat. 176 (1898) n. 43; Cat. 193 (1899) n. 86. Sold in August 1900 to Sir Edward F. Coates (d. 1921); letter dated 16 August [1900] from A. W. Pollard to Mr. E. Almack tipped into the volume, regretting that the British Museum had not been able to acquire the manuscript. Coates sale, Sotheby's, 8 February 1922, lot 1 with plate of f. 111v to A. S. W. Rosenbach for Henry E. Huntington; letter dated 10 January 1922 from Rosenbach to Huntington tipped into the Library copy of the Sotheby catalogue. - C. W. Dutschke with the assistance of R. H. Rouse et al., *Guide to Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the Huntington Library* (San Marino, 1989). De Ricci, 37 (including many previous references). *Aspects of Medieval England*, n. 28 open at f. 15.

Number of Parts: 1 - *Number of Images Available:* 0

Direct Link: http://ds.lib.berkeley.edu/HM00001_43

Language: English *Country:* England *Century:* 15th

Gallery of Images for this Manuscript: http://dpg.lib.berkeley.edu/webdb/dsheh/heh_br?CallNumber=HM+1

Part 1: ff. 1-132v

Description: - Parchment - 210 x 305 mm - A first quire now missing, as shown by signatures. 1⁸(-3 through 6 after f. 2) 2⁸ 3⁸(-4, 5 after f. 15) 4-8⁸ 8⁸ 9⁸ 9⁸(-4, 5 after f. 61) 10-16⁸ 17⁸(-2 through 8 after f. 121) 18⁸ 8⁸(-1 through 5) 19⁸(-1 through 5) 19⁸. 28-43 lines of verse, 2 columns of 34 lines on f. 28v; ruling in lead occasionally visible.

Country: England

Cardinal point:

Region:

City:

Assigned Date: s. XV/XVI

Searchable Date Range: 1490 - 1510

Dated by scribe: No

Inscribed Date:

Document: No

Number of Scribes: ;

Script: Anglicana; Bastard textura

Other Decoration: On ff. 1 and 3, 5-line void white initials on dark grounds, infilled with vines and leaves, the frame enclosed by a narrow red line; these initials very similar to those used in certain books printed ca. 1480-1540; see Cawley and Stevens, *The Towneley Cycle: a facsimile*, pp. xv-xvi.; thereafter plays introduced by calligraphic initials with strapwork and scrolling generally becoming larger and more elaborate towards the end of the book, ca. 32-110 × 50-100 mm.

Notes: On f. 80, a calligraphic initial "D" unrelated to the text on that page, apparently due to scribal error in beginning play 21 on the first recto of a new quire without having completed play 20; recognizing the mistake, the scribe refolded the outer bifolium, finished play 20 on the new first recto (f. 73), then began play 21 on f. 73v, leaving the mistaken "D" on what became the last leaf of the quire; for this explanation, which assumes that the calligraphic initials were done before the text was copied, see L. Wann, "A New Examination of the Manuscript of the Towneley Plays," *PMLA* 43 (1928) 137-52 with plates of ff. 73v, 90, and Cawley and Stevens, *The Towneley Cycle: a facsimile*, p. ix. The last play, ff. 131v-132, added s. XVI. Latin

Number of Texts: 1

Text 1: ff. 1-132; f. 132v, now covered with modern paper

Title: Towneley Cycle

Title: In dei nomine Amen Assit principio Sancta Maria meo Wakefeld

Language(s): English

Incipit: Ego sum alpha et o/ I am the first the last also/ Oone god in mageste/ Meruelus of myght most/ Fader & Son & holy goost/ On god in trinyte

Explicit: The qweyn hir selff with child can goo/ A son sche bayr/ A fayrer child from tope to too/ Man neuer se ayre.

Notes: Twenty-eight leaves missing with loss of text: the bans (?), portions of plays 1, 4, 5, 17, 18, 29, 30, and 3 or 4 plays on the Virgin Mary (?); play 7 left unfinished; plays 7, 8, 31 and 32 copied out of sequence. IMEV 715. G. England and A. W. Pollard, eds., *The Towneley Plays*. EETS es 71 (London 1897) from this unique manuscript. For other editions see M. Stevens, "The Manuscript of the Towneley Plays: Its History and Editions," *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* 67 (1973) 231-44. See also *The Towneley Cycle: a facsimile of Huntington MS HM 1*, with an introduction by A. C. Cawley and M. Stevens (San Marino and the University of Leeds 1976). See M. Stevens, "The Missing Parts of the Towneley Cycle," *Speculum* 45 (1970) 254-65 suggesting that the missing first quire may have contained the bans (lost accidentally) and that the 12 leaves missing after f. 121 may have contained Mary plays, removed from the manuscript intentionally at the Reformation.

Technical support provided by The University of California, Berkeley Library